A Newsletter from the Worshipping Communities of

Faith Lutheran Church

1032 Prissel St Durand WI 54736 715-672-8107 Pastor Bethany's Office Hours: Wed Faith 1-4PM



Rock Creek Lutheran Church

N1101 810th St Mondovi WI 54755 715-875-4571 Pastor Bethany's Contact Info: C: 402-520-5504



Let your light shine! Matthew 5:16

Sometimes I come across a beautiful piece of writing and think, "I couldn't have said it better myself." So, this month I commend to your reading this poem entitled Peace is Possible by L.R. Knost:

"Here's to the bridge-builders, the hand-holders, the light-bringers, those extraordinary souls wrapped in ordinary lives who quietly weave threads of humanity into an inhumane world. They are the unsung heroes in a world at war with itself. They are the whisperers of hope that peace is possible. Look for them in this present darkness. Light your candle with their flame. And then go. Build bridges. Hold hands. Bring light to a dark and desperate world. Be the hero you are looking for. Peace is possible. It begins with us."

As we begin a month focused on the theme, Gratitude, I find myself giving thanks for these congregations, full of people trying to figure out together how to most faithfully be the church in this time and place. Where will you put your God-given energy? Do you hope to be a bridge-builder, a hand-holder or a light-bringer? Whatever you are, be a good one. The world needs you. Peace begins with you.



November Learning Nights

November 6 4-5:30PM November 13 4-5:30PM

Season of Service

While we take a break from our regularly scheduled learning nights for the holidays there is an opportunity for our FaithLift kids to experience three nights of serving together locally with Pastor Bethany December 4, December 11 and December 18 Let me know if your student plans to participate



The FaithLift students and adult guides spent one of our recent gatherings serving together. In just one hours' time we put in over 30 hours of service! With many helping hands we sorted Halloween costumes to give away at Parent/Teacher Conferences, we discarded expired soda so the cans and pop tabs could be properly recycled, we folded plastic bags for use at the food pantry, we sorted diapers for the Baby and Toddler Closet and we distributed 100 paper bags door to door for a Pantry Food Drive. The food drive collected 366 lbs of food that was donated to the Durand Area Food Pantry! It was a great day to be God's hands in the world!



Youth Group 8th-12th Graders

November 6 7PM Faith 5 at Club 10 November 13 6PM Mission Trip Meeting at Faith

Mission Trip 2025

We are now forming our SR High Mission Trip Team for 2025! Partnering with YouthWorks again our destination is Denver, CO July 12-19, 2025. Come learn more about it and claim your spot on Wednesday, November 13 6PM at Faith



The Baby Toddler Closet, housed at Faith, is filling a need in our community. Founded by a local mom, Jessie Nunez, it is visited regularly by families in need of clothing, diapers, wipes and other baby supplies. People have also donated generously, leaving a lot of clothes to be sorted and folded for giveaway. We are looking to form a team of people to help with sorting donations and running the pop-up hours for the Closet. It would be monthly for a couple hours based on your availability. If you are willing to lend a helping hand please reach out to Pastor Bethany at 402-520-5504 or <u>frclcpastor@gmail.com</u> We hope to have a team in place by mid-November.





Daily Advent Devotions Ornament Stories

24 people are needed to help create the daily Advent devotional. In past years, people of all ages have contributed to the writing making it delightfully cross-generational. Advent begins December 1st. This year we will be collecting stories centered around your most cherished Christmas ornaments. You will be asked to share a photo of the ornament along with a brief story of why it is significant to your life of faith. If you are willing to write a short devotion contact Pastor Bethany by November 20 at <u>frclcpastor@gmail.com</u> or via text 402-520-5504.

September and October Outreach Uff Da Dinner













Trunk or Treat

Quilts



Through the Halloween Costume Giveaway in partnership with Caddie Woodlawn, Neighbor to Neighbor Health Fair, Uff Da Dinner, Trunk or Treat, Sunday Supper, Quilting Ministry and FaithLift Service Night, Faith and Rock Creek ministered to more than 2,100 people! It is good to be the church together!



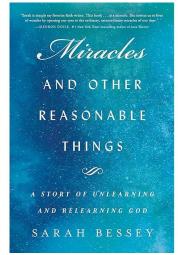
Joint lay led worship services will be held on Sunday, November 24 at Rock Creek at 10:30AM and Sunday, December 29 at Faith at 10:30AM



Pastor Bethany will be taking time off from Tuesday, November 19 – Friday November 29. Pastoral care needs during that time will be covered November 19-26 by Pastor Karen Ressel (715-864-4407) and November 27-29 by Pastor Mike Vetsch (715-279-2195). One joint worship service will be held on Sunday November 24 at Rock Creek at 10:30AM.



Help decorate the sanctuaries for Advent and Christmas on Sunday November 17th at Faith following worship Sunday November 26th at Rock Creek following worship



A Recommended Read from Pastor Bethany

In a sort of theological memoir, author Sarah Bessey, shares the story of her life and faith after surviving a serious car accident. Her body was changed forever as she experienced life altering injuries and chronic pain but also a miraculous healing. This honest, real-life story does not disappoint as the reader wonders together with Sarah what it means to be held by God when the world as we know it seems to be falling apart. The subtitle says it well, "a story of unlearning and relearning God."

(Note: I don't entirely agree with every author I read. It isn't necessary to in order to learn something valuable from them. If you read a book I recommend please do so with an open heart and mind. I am always happy to hear your takeaways. I love a good conversation about a good read!)



Christmas Poinsettia orders due November 3rd

Order forms are at both congregations. The plants will be used to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve services. You are free to take yours home following the service.



At our Backpack Blessing in August, students chose adult prayer partners. It is time to celebrate those relationships with some Prayer Partner Photos! During the Sundays in November find your prayer partner, grab the prayer partner sign and capture the moment! Remember to keep praying daily for your student too!



Our October Sunday Supper was sponsored by Reta Stewart. November Sunday Supper will be sponsored by the Webb family. Thank you! The monthly cost for Sunday Supper is \$300. If you wish to sponsor all or a portion of a Sunday Supper please contact Linda Talford or drop your donation in the offering plate. You can also support Sunday Supper through donating desserts, bingo prizes, a grand prize for the monthly drawing or attending the meal to offer hospitality to our neighbors. We continue to depend on your generosity to keep this community outreach going.



NOISY OFFERING

Bring your loose change to worship! Noisy offerings taken during worship in October will support Pink Box Purpose, a women's hygiene and prenatal ministry in Honduras. November noisy offerings will support Sunday Supper.